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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,513	11/28/2003	Tien-Kuei Wen	BHT-3167-167	7588

7590 11/03/2006

BRUCE H. TROXELL
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FALLS CHURCH, VA 22041

EXAMINER

STINSON, FRANKIE L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1746

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/722,513

Applicant(s)

WEN ET AL.

Examiner

FRANKIE L. STINSON

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japan'384 (Japan 9-268384) in view of either Soble et al. (U. S. pat. No. 5,490,46) or Japan'365 (Japan 7-224365).

Re claim 1, Japan'384 is cited disclosing a cleaning apparatus for a pillared device (R), comprising:

an outer tank (5), further including thereof opposing sidewalls respective upper edges, said upper edges further having respective openings to allow a shaft extending out from two ends of said pillared device to pass through;

an inner tank (1) within said outer tank for containing said pillared device, supported upon a floor of said outer tank;

and a plurality of nozzles (3) constructed to spray a second cleaning solution onto said pillared device that differs from the claims only in the recitation of the pillared device being immerse and a lid covering the outer tank. Japan'365 and Soble are each cited disclosing the arrangement of having the pillared device immersed as claimed. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus of Japan'384, to have the pillared device immersed as taught by either Soble or Japan'365, for the purpose of enhancing the cleaning effect. Also note that Soble discloses the lid. To provide Japan'384 with the same would have been obvious for the

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purpose of preventing the escape of cleaning fluids and to protect the user as is very old and well known in the art. As for the plurality of nozzles being constructed to the lid, to have the nozzles as claimed is deemed to be a mere rearrangement of parts (see MPEP 2144.04 REVERSAL, DUPLICATION OR RE-ARRANGEMENT OF PARTS). Re claim 2, Japan'365, Japan'384 and Soble disclose the roller. Re claim 7, no patentable distinction is deemed to exist between the pillared device as claimed, and the pillared device as taught by Japan'384, Japan'365 or Soble. Re claims 3 and 4, no patentable distinction is deemed to exist between the shape as claimed and the shape as taught by Japan'384. This is also applicable to the type of cleaning fluid used as claimed in claims 5 and 6, since the same is dependent upon the application of the device being cleaned.

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In Watts et al., Marshall et al., Hamlin et al., Japan'269, Liers et al., Abrahamson, Zukowski et al., Davies, EPO'655 and Japan'191, note the cleaning means.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRANKIE L. STINSON whose telephone number is (571) 272-1308. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 5:30 am to 2:00 pm and some Saturdays from approximately 5:30 am to 11:30 am.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr, can be reached on (571) 272-1700. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-272-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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FRANKIE L. STINSON
Primary Examiner
GROUP ART UNIT 1746